Journal of Scientific Exploration, Vol. 25, No. 4, p. 779–780, 2011 0892-3310/11

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Pipefish or Pipe Dream?

This Letter is a reply to the research article "A Baby Sea-Serpent No More: Reinterpreting Hagelund's Juvenile 'Cadborosaur' Report," in *JSE* 25:3, Fall 2011 (Woodley, Naish, & McCormick, 2011). Naish and colleagues indulge in the common home-quarterbacking habit of insisting that anything described as different must be an erroneous description of something found in a book that vaguely looks like it. A comparison of Hagelund's "baby-Caddy" with a pipefish (Figure 1) shows significant differences in the latter:

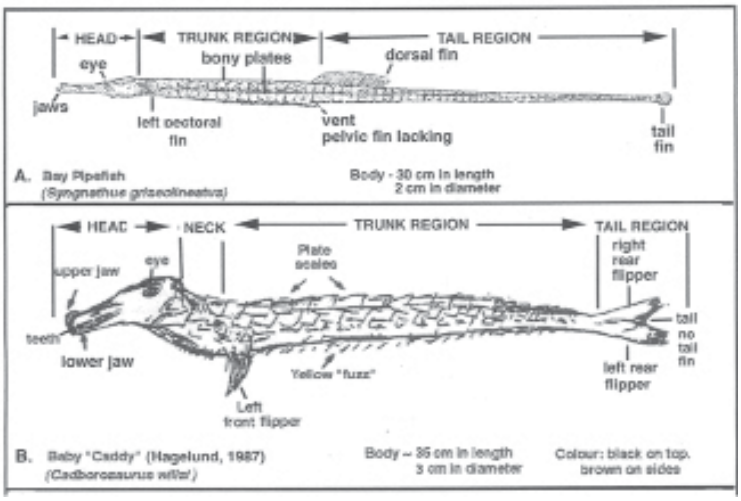

Figure 1. A comparison of the pipefish (*Syngnathus griseolineatus*) (A) with Hagelund's "baby Caddy" (B). (Hagelund, 1987; Leblond & Bousfield, 1995)

1 – no neck;
2 – nearly fused jaws;
3 – no posterior paired appendages (pelvic fins);
4 – pronounced dorsal fin;
5 – very elongate post-vent tail region (> 1/2 body length);
6 – lateral plates encircling the body and tail region (vs. only dorso laterally on trunk region in Hagelund's creature);
7 – presence of a small and vertically oriented fin.

Observed behavioral differences are equally great. The pipefish doesn't swim with its head continuously out of the water for more than a few seconds, not the estimated 5–10 minutes observed originally by Hagelund, and the pipefish cannot open its tiny jaws (*Syn-gnathus*!), whereas the baby Caddy opened its large jaws and displayed a mouthful of conspicuous teeth.

So much for the pipefish idea. As to whether Caddy eyewitness accounts relate to one or more unknown creatures: "*entia non sunt multiplicanda praeter necessitatem"* to quote William of Occam; and while there may be a remote chance that more than one single unconfirmed animal species may be hiding under the appellation *Cadborosaurus,* there is not enough evidence to introduce specific distinctions at this time.

We appreciate the interest expressed in Cadborosaurus and encourage commentators to look closely at the published evidence before jumping to conclusions.

Ed L. Bousfield
lbousf@rogers.com

Paul H. LeBlond
leblondph@rogers.com

References

Hagelund, W. (1987). *Whalers No More*. Madeira Park, B.C.: Harbour Publishing.
LeBlond, P. H., & Bousfield, E. L. (1995). *Cadborosaurus*. Victoria, B.C.: Horsdal & Schubart.
Woodley, M. A., Naish, D., & McCormick, C. A. (2011). A baby sea-serpent no more: Reinterpreting Hagelund's juvenile "Cadborosaur" report. *Journal of Scientific Exploration, 25,* 497–514.